

Docket No.: 42P12661C

REMARKS

Claims 1-25 are pending in the present application. Claims 14-25 have been allowed and claims 2-10 have been indicated as being allowable if rewritten in independent form. By this response, claim 1 has been amended. Reconsideration and allowance are respectfully requested.

I. Claim Rejections

Claims 1, 11 and 13 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. §102(b), as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 3,812,402 to Garth ("Garth"). In the Office Action, the Examiner urges that Garth's bus bars (15, 16) disclose Applicants' "multi-signal bus bars." for the following reasons, Applicants respectfully but forcefully disagree with this contention.

To begin with, even before being amended in this action, claim 1 recited, in pertinent part, that the multi-signal bus bars are "to enable input/output (I/O) signals to be transported between the substrate and a socket." In contrast, the bus bars of Garth are power reference bars (ground and voltage bus bars). (See, e.g., Garth at Col. 2, ll. 50-55). They don't convey input/output data whatsoever. Rather, Garth's input/output signals are conveyed through input/output edge connectors (22). (See Garth at Col. 3, ll. 28+). Thus, even if Garth's bus bars (15, 16) could be construed as multi-signal bus bars, they fail to satisfy express language in claim 1 "to enable input/output (I/O) signals to be transported between the substrate and a socket." For this reason alone, Garth does not anticipate claim 1 and thus claims 11 and 13.

In addition, claim 1 has been amended in this response to particularly distinguish its bus bar structure from the edge connectors of Garth, which perform Garth's input/output signal conveying functions. In particular, claim 1 recites, in pertinent part, that the multi-signal bus bars are "coupled in a substantially perpendicular orientation to a socket side of the substrate . . ." In contrast, Garth's edge connectors: 18, 20 (reference power) and 22 (input/output signals), are disposed, in a parallel orientation, along the edges of its logic card 11, which arguably correspond to the substrate of claim 1, at least with regard to how the Examiner is applying Garth. A substantially perpendicular orientation, as recited in Claim 1, allows for more multi-signal bus bars to be used with a single substrate than if they were edge coupled as taught by Garth. Accordingly, claims 1, 11, and 13 are patentable over Garth and a Notice of allowance is respectfully requested.

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CONCLUSION

Applicants assert that all claims are in condition for allowance. Applicants respectfully request the Examiner to pass this case to issue at the Examiner's earliest possible convenience.

If the Examiner believes, for any reason, that personal communication will expedite prosecution of this application, the Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned at 512.238.7253.

Respectfully submitted,

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